With the compliments of
H. C. Mercer

THE TREES OF DOYLESTOWN

By

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The writer gratefully acknowledges the kind assistance given by Mrs. Irvin M. James and Mr. J. Kirk Leatherman in identifying, describing, labeling and noting the position of the trees

New Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society.

Presented to the Society June 17, 1916. Built in 1914, 1915 and 1916, entirely, (roofs, floors and window sashes) of re-enforced concrete, with an interior court surrounded by three galleries, with 33 fire proof rooms and 36 alcoves.

Besides a library of 8000 volumes and numerous relics of Indian handiwork, the building contains a collection made in and confined to the United States of America, begun in 1897, and now in 1918, consisting of 14,428 ancient implements and utensils. Imported here by Colonists, or frequently copied from European types used in the United States until about 1820, or until the introduction of steam and modern machinery, these objects represent the relation of Man at all times and in all countries to his chief needs, namely Food, Clothing, Shelter, Transport, Religion, Art, Science and Amusement with their many subordinate branches.

The Museum is open to the public on week days.

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The Trees of Doylestown.

Not only the gardens of Doylestown, but also its streets, along the outer and inner sides of the sidewalks, are thickly planted with trees, except in a comparatively small central area near the intersection of Main and State Streets, where the curbstone trees have disappeared and houses without gardens crowd the pavement.

Two of these trees, namely the SCARLET OAK on Church Hill and the immense SASSAFRAS in a garden on Court Street certainly, and several of them, probably, namely the great LINDENS at 104 North Main Street and at 25 West Court Street and the SECKEL PEAR at 88 North Main Street, were growing when the old Court House was built and its park given to the town by Nathaniel Shewell in 1812. Some others like the trees in the Court House Park, the HEMLOCKS and WHITE PINES at 132 North Main Stret and the HEMLOCKS on "Germany Hill," follow close upon that event, but the majority are not over 40 to 50 years old and testify to an increased interest in the planting of street trees that began soon after the Civil War or about 1870, when Mr. Darlington and General Davis set out the maple trees in the Cemetery and along Maple Avenue.

There are (with reasonable allowance for back standing trees not counted in 1917) about 3785 of these privately planted street trees in the town, but the fact that approximately 2149 of them are Maples and about 1500 of them Silver Maples with only 10 Lindens, 4 Tulip Poplars, 155 Ashes, 14 Beaches and 6 Elms, shows that no great care has been taken in their selection. Neither do the facts prove that much effort has been expended in their preservation, since out of 3785 trees in the town, 416 have been mutilated by their owners, who, chiefly attacking the Silver Maples, in spite of many protests, have continued to "behead" them so that their bristling tops, whose deformity is revealed in winter, shall sprout into rounded and unnatural masses of summer foliage, as they rot the tree to its death. Besides this, up to the year 1918, there has been no Street Commission appointed under the State law to care for the trees, and numerous examples all over the town show that curbstones have been rarely set over or around the roots, but generally notched into them; that numerous trees, used as hitching posts, have been blighted by the teeth of horses; that many have been vivisected under heavy pressure when used as stays

for trolley or telegraph wires, or electrocuted by the charged wires of electric lights.

On the other hand, the oldest and largest trees in the town, like the Linden on Main Street and the Scarlet Oak on Church Hill, have escaped deformation and destruction. The Horse Chestnut at No. 61 East State Street has not "come down." The landmark White Pine at 132 North Main Street still stands. The shade trees saved by Mrs. Irvin M. James, and the School Board, in 1915, in spite of "serious protest" still survive in the middle of the Public School pavement, and since Judge Yerkes saved the Buttonwood in the Court House Park (No. 15), the public trees have been cared for officially and are in no more danger of mutilation or destruction than those in the Cemetery or in the grounds of the Bucks County Historical Society.

Many persons who regard the deformation of trees with disapproval protect their own with scrupulous care from the electrician, the curbstone builder, the trolley, the horse and the "HEADSMAN" so that the student of trees may still enjoy visiting a town where a Nature Club exists to label and to protect trees and where he may study their blossoms, leaves, bark, growth, form and fruit in summer and winter.

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(1) WHITE ASH (Fraxinus americana). Twin Ash Farm.

Although one of these enormous trees is much larger than the other, and although both stand in line with the Lower State Road, they appear too old to have been planted by human hands, either when the state road was laid out, or by William Dungan, who owned the site in 1750, and like the White Oak of Castle Valley (4) must be relics of the great forest. If, as we know, the large Ash in the Court House Park, with a circumference of 9 feet at 4 feet above the ground, was planted in 1812 when the Park was laid out, and is therefore 106 years old—then the larger of these latter trees, with a girth of 16 feet 4 inches at 4 feet from the ground, might be reasonably supposed to be at least 60 years older or 166 years old. See 62.

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(2) AMERICAN WHITE ASH (Fraxinus americana). Twin Ash Farm.

See 1.

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(3) BACK ASH (Ornus excelsior). No Label.

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(4) WHITE OAK (Quercus alba). Eighth of a mile northwest of Castle Valley Bridge on the New Britain Road.

In attempting, without certain proof, to guess the age of this colossal and magnificent tree, we might consider, first, that the tree is certainly older than the period, about 1780, when farmers began to plant ornamental trees. 2nd, that neither Barton, who owned its site about 1750, nor any other pioneer settler, then chiefly occupied in clearing, rather than planting trees, would have planted a White Oak tree which Nature everywhere planted for him. Therefore that the tree is not a man-planted tree, but a natural growth. 3rd, that the tree has for a long time stood free of other trees in order to develop its uniform spread of branches. 4th, that if, as is probable, the White Oak trees at Neshaminy Church, as seedlings of the ancient

forest, were over 30 years old in 1727 when the first church was built, and are therefore now 191 years old, this tree, at least, one-third larger than they, and growing under less favorable conditions, might reasonably be considered as 50 years older, or 240 years old, that is as having started to grow not later than 1677. Though this old Oak, which measures 16 feet in circumference at 4 feet from the ground, with 108 feet spread of branches, is probably the largest White Oak in Bucks county, there is according to Dr. Rothrock (in Forest Leaves, Vol. 8, No. 12) a still larger White Oak in Graceland Cemetery, Delaware county, 25 feet in circumference at 4 feet above the ground. Another 19 feet in circumference ditto, with a branch spread of 117 feet, at the Friends' Graveyard at Salem, New New Jersey, and another near Kutztown, Berks county, Pensylvania, (Forest Leaves, Vol. 9, No. 12), 19 feet, 10 inches in circumference with 104 feet of foliage. See 14.

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(5) WHITE PINE (Pinus strobus). 115 East State Street.

Planted by Uriah DuBois about 1807. See 49.

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(6) SIVLER MAPLE (Acer dasycarpus). 200 East State Street.

See 27.

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(7). AMERICAN MAPLE (Tilia americana). 33 West Court Street.

See 17 and 57.

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(8) EUROPEAN LINDEN (Tilia europaea). 73 East State Street.

See 31.

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(9) SYCAMORE or BUTTONWOOD (Platanus occidentalis). Court House Park.

See 15

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(10) BLACK WALNUT (Juglans nigra). Court House Park.

The massive, broad-armed, slow growing Walnut, with its graceful, elder like, late coming, early going leaflets, (13 to 23 to a stem) because of its valuable dark wood, once in fashion with cabinet makers, has been nearly exterminated as a forest tree in the middle West.

But look for it still in Solebury or Bedminster where the farmer, though a destroyer of trees, loved to plant it 100 years ago. See it still by the old barn yard wall, where generations of geese have cropped the grass and paddled in the shady mud, where squirrels and "ground hackies" have made their winter store in the eaves of the rotting spring house, and where boys with stained hands and sore mouths have Indian-like, pounded the iron-bound nuts. There old women have boiled with vitriol the pungent husks to dye Linsey Woolsey brown, made sour pickles of the young nuts, or as a safeguard against thunder, gathered in summer the aromatic leaves, vieing, in their exquisite perfume, with the Australian Eucalyptus.

This tree was probably planted when the Court House Park was laid out in 1813.

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(11) AILANTHUS (Glandulosa ailanthus). 73 East State Street.

Introduced from China in 1751 and first planted in the United States near Philadelphia, this succulent, rapidly growing, short-lived, late-leaved tree with its straight, upgrowing two to

three feet long leaf stalks bearing 21 to 41 leaflets, would, but for the lack of notches in the latter, resemble, when young, the Sumac.

Whoever would destroy or never plant the Ailanthus because of the sickening smell of its blossoms should know that half of these trees bear pistillate blossoms that do not smell. See 52.

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(12) **HORSE CHESTNUT** (**Aesculus hippocastanum**). 61 East State Street.

The lumberman and economist have had nothing to say for the sturdy Horse Chestnut since it was brought to America from the Mountains of Greece (via Europe) for beauty rather than use, more than one hundred years ago; nor for the rare and smaller American Buckeye that resembles it. Its seven-fingered, broad-ended leaves, its white floral pompons, would make it a remarkable tree, but in childhood's garden with the gorgeous glaze of its red brown nuts, it stands alone.

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(13) **BALD CYPRESS** (**Taxodium distichum**). 218 Green Street.

This lofty, brown tree, not native to Bucks County, but introduced for ornament, a gigantic stump of which still stands, as a visitor's wonder, at Bartram's Garden near Philadelphia, is the celebrated lumber tree, now so valued by the carpenter, cooper and contractor of the Southern Atlantic Coast swamps and the Gulf States.

A boat dug or adzed out of its trunk in the Museum of the Bucks County Historical Society, shows that the old river boatmen of North Carolina knew how to use its weather resisting wood for their purpose, but more remarkable to Botanists than the worth of its wood or the outlandish steeple-like projections which rise from its roots, is the fact that with one exception, namely the American larch or Tamarack (compare 86 it alone, of the American cone and needle bearing trees, appears to be an Evergreen, when it is not, that is, becomes bald, by losing its leaves in winter.

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(14) **WHITE OAK** (**Quercus alba**). 209 Mechanics Street.

Long-lived, colossal, durable, with color-producing bark, hard and highly-valued wood, the slow-growing, ashen-barked White Oak, was the oft-named landmark in old Bucks County deeds, as where an enormous tree on Mr. Frank Doan's farm, one mile east of Wrightstown, probably 300 years old, near the "Indian Field," may be the "corner white oak near the path that leadeth to the Indian town of Playwicky" of the old Bucks County deed of 1682.

A blight falls, 1917, upon the upland beyond Deep Run Irish Meeting House, and upon the Southern crest of Pebble Hill, as the portable saw mill transforms the White Oak groves that stood there into bridge planks. Yet still the White Oaks in the grove around Neshaminy Church, which must have stood there when William Tennent had his trance, are probably safe from the lumber dealer—splendid trees! But the largest oak of all stands near Castle Valley Bridge, where it must have thrown its shade before the first axe of the first pioneer echoed in the great forest. How many more generations of men shall pass before lightning strikes it, before the wind tears its colossal arms, or the saw mill claims its prey?

"The woods of 'Owlsburg' are gone,"

(16) AMERICAN CHESTNUT (Castanea dentata). 115 East State Street.

How much longer will boys, in the frosty Autumn, club the brittle branches, pound the burrs and gather the delicious nuts of the American chestnut, once the commonest of trees in Bucks County, but since about 1907, when stricken with a fatal blight, perhaps soon to be the rarest.

Closely resembling the European ("Spanish" Chestnut) yet differing in its smaller and sweeter nuts, this celebrated tree, with its deeply notched leaves, its late summer bloom, its familiar burrs and bark which tans leather and dyes it red, with its sap, black as ink in older trees, should be judged by the wide-branched solitary giants spared to stand alone for fruit or cattle-shade by the road-side or in the pasture, like the famous Chestnut at Wrightstown that Marshal touched at sunrise, rather than by the straight stemmed trees now dying in the woods.

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(17) AMERICAN LINDEN (Tilia americana). In pavement, corner of Court and East Streets.

This healthy, quick growing, rough barked, lofty tree, of densest and coolest shade and delicious fragrance, with its parachute seed pods and five petaled "single" blossoms, seems formed, as the special friend of man, rather for the garden and door-step than for the forest solitude. But when the lecturer is asked who, except the Russian, made mats, (bast) of the bark of the European Linden or who in America except the Louisiana Indians (according to Dupratz), ever used the bark of the American Linden for baskets, fish nets or ropes,

(15) BUTTONWOOD (Platanus occidentalis). Court House Park

The huge Buttonwood tree, seventy to one hundred feet high, with conspicuous scaly bark, is decorated over winter with brown button-shaped fruit. Massive limbed, with open shade, early bared in autumn, and with scaly bark glittering white green and gray, the tree was the farmer's choice of old to shade the spring house.

When about 1890 an attempt was made, without authority, to cut this tree (No. 15) down to save the trouble of clearing up its fallen branches and fruit, Judge Yerkes save it form destruction.

A large Buttonwood Tree, fourteen feet seven inches in circumference four feet from the ground and shading ninety feet, stands by a well near the house of Z. Taylor Worthington, one mile east of Grier's Corner in Plumstead Township and another, somewhat smaller, tree at the house on Moore's Farm two miles west of Doylestown, with a circumference of thirteen feet and a leaf spread of seventy five feet, must be about a hundred years old.

According to the information of Mathias Hall, of Wrightstown, the very large Buttonwood at the Hall Homestead, two miles east of Doylestown on Pebble Hill, eighteen feet three inches in circumference four feet from the ground and spreading its branches a hundred feet, must be about 150 years old, because when religious colonists were accustomed to be baptised in the spring nearby, the tree was large enough to be used as an observatory by boys who climbed up into its branches to see the ceremony. See 9.

and therefore why he calls the tree. Bass Wood, he would find the question difficult to answer. Because no one has yet mutilated one of these beautiful trees in Doylestown, because the town council named a street after them, though no such tree stands on the street, because Mr. Sheip named a girls' seminary after this tree, planted by him before its door, though since cut down, because this particular tree, with its fellow ash, was rescuod from destruction by Mrs. Irvin M. James and the School Board in 1915 and left to stand in the middle of the pavement, because Moritz Loeb planted a Linden, still standing, on North Main street in memory of his German home—Doylestown seems to have loved and befriended the Linden.

See 57.

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(18) AMERICAN ELM (Ulmus americana). 310 Maple Avenue.

To see the American Elm in its glory, look not in Bucks county, where the tree is smaller and less vigorous and no great village favorite, but along the shaded streets of New England towns where it has become celebrated, less for its size, its little noticed flowers, its seeds, leaves and its valuable wood, than for the symmetrical vase like over-hang of its plumed branches.

The famous Elm of Kensington, shading Penn and the Indians in 1682, was a very large tree when it blew down in 1810 at an age of 283 years, and though fine Elms are rare in Bucks county, some nevertheless flourish, as along the Delaware River below the mouth of Tinicum Creek.

According to the information of Mrs. William Mason, a previous owner (unknown) about 1880, was in the act of cutting down this tree, when Dr. F. Swartzlander prevailed upon him to preserve it.

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(19) LOMBARDY POPLAR (Populus dilatata) Court House Park.

This unique, short-lived and almost shadeless tree, with its fluttering triangular leaves and slender figure, with its vertical branches clinging to its vertical trunk, bending in the wind in one long graceful curve, looks no more likt an ordinary tree than a church steeple resembles a house roof.

Not mentioned by Pliny as a European tree in his time, of doubtful origin, whether as a variety of the Black Poplar of Europe, or a native of Afghanistan, where a grove of these trees is said to grow near Cabul, 7500 feet above the sea, it was brought to England from Lombardy in 1758, not because of its use, but for its exquisite beauty. Unfortunately a fatal disease seems to have attacked it in Bucks county where numerous trees known to the writer, and others planted by him, have recently died and where probably not a single healthy tree exists.

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(20) CAROLINA POPLAR (Populus deltoides) Home for the Aged Deaf.

If not unknown to our old wild woods, at least rarer as a native than the small Popple or "Quaking Asp," or the Balm of Gilead that rustles along the banks of Deep Run, the tall, quick growing Cottonwood or Carolina Poplar, renewing its youth from its roots, with its smooth upper bark, varnished leaves and resinous buds, became common in the 1870's, as a street tree imported from the South. When the tall tree at the corner of Cottage street and Maple avenue, over-topping

the town as seen from Danboro hill, was broken by a well remembered storm, nature struck the blow. But when ten graceful Poplar trees fell on Washington street, man did the work, yet staying his heavy hand there, left 20 more standing to frame the fair southern view with dancing leaves and summer shadows.

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(21) .**RED MAPLE** (Acer rubrum), At the Deaf and Dumb Home.

Well distinguished from the two other most famous of the American maples, namely the Sugar and Silver Maple, this stronger smaller tree, well named Red, because of its red April blossoms, its scarlet winged seeds in May and its gorgeous Autumn color, with its sugary sap, its bark that dyes wool brown, its wood with a grain twist known as "Bird's eye", is best recognized by its smaller, more compact and less cut out leaves, with sharp, not round based scallops or sinuses.

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(29) .**SYCAMORE MAPLE** (Acer pseudo platanus). 153 East State Street.

If this sturdy European maple with its longer buds and wooly underleaves hanging late in Autumn, may not rival the American maples in size and beauty, it may be said to out-vie them in its history, since fasely called Sycamore in England because of its use in old miracle plays (as a stage make-shift for the fig tree (sycamine) of the Bible;) it has multiplied error by fixing the wrong name, Sycamore, through chance resemblancec of its leaves, upon the American Buttonwood or Plane tree (Platanus occidentalis).

(23). **SUGAR MAPLE** (Acer saccharum). 58 East Court Street.

The flowers of this lofty tree, unlike those of other maples, appear with the leaves in Spring, and its bark when old curls up and loosens in vertical scales; also its broader leaves lack the deep scissored outlines of the Silver and fine serations and sharp scallops of the Red maple and though all these trees, together with the Black maple and Box Elder, yield a sweet sap, which, as the Indians knew, can be cooked into sugar,this tree has long been familiar as the source of maple sugar to the farmer, who taps its bark with "elder spiles" and drawing the liquor into troughs, adzed from the present wood, carries it off in buckets and boils it down until it floats an egg.

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(24) **SUGAR BERRY** (Celtis occidentalis). William J. O'Neill's farm, South of Doylestown, along Mill Creek.

This little known comparatively small Western tree, with its scaly bark and warty twigs, gracefully drooping limbs, and acute but serrate leaves, though rare East of the Alleghanies, can be seen wild in the gorges of the Neshaminy below Bridge Point and Dark Hollow.

If the Elm tree bore berries, then the Sugar Berry with its purple dark sweet large seeded drupes, scattered in Autumn on delicate stems, and scarcely visible through its lop-sided leaves, would look like a little Elm tree.

(25) **EUROPEAN ASH** (Ornus excelsior). Corner Church and State Streets.

Recollections, not of the American forest, but of classical poetry, magic

and mythology, and of the gardens, palaces and ruined castles of old Europe, cling around the graceful and lofty ash, as one of the most celebrated trees of the old world, brought here by gardeners t plant with its American cousin, the White Ash. From this it can be distinguished by two characteristics, namely, first its seed pods which unlike those of the American tree are notched at the base, and second, by the smaller and far more numerously paired leaves on the leaf stalks.

This was the only tree of its kind in Doylestown in March, 1917.

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(26). EUROPEAN LINDEN (Tilia europaea). 25 West Court Street.

See 31.

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(27). SILVER MAPLE (Acer dasycarpus). 10 Mechanics Street.

This lofty swamp loving tree, with its drooping upcurved swaying branches, glowing with Autumnal red buds, scattering its winged seeds like boomerangs to spring up everywhere as seedlings, and far outnumbering all other trees in Doylestown, is not valued by lumbermen, but sometimes by the twist of its grain, is useful to cabinet makers as "birdseye" or "curly maple." The compact outlines and conservative notchings of the foliage of the Sugar and Red Maple, seem commonplace, compared with the exaggerated deep and fantastic scallopings of these fairy leaves, which unlike those of other maples turn up white in the wind.

This long suffering tree has been more mutilated in Doylestown than any other by persons, who delight in amputating and reamputating its maltreated limbs, until its romantic figure takes the shape of a cabbage, and its graceful upcurving branches become rotten bristling warts.

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(28) AMERICAN BEECH (Fagus americana) South West Corner Court House Park.

Not by the old farm house or barn, or in the gardens of Doylestown, does the lofty smooth barked Beech, less dense of shade than its European relative, prefer to sway its white fantastic arms, but rather in the damp silent woods, or overhanging the still water of the mill dam or race, or where as near Brownsburg a group of these trees more than 200 year old, carved with unknown names shade the river graves of Continental soldiers.

Older heads may tell of its grotesque branches, its valuable wood, its glittering bark and its edible nuts, but the Beech like the Slippery Elm and Sweet Birch is a boy's tree, and it is boys, not men or even lovers, who let know where the great gray hollow trunk stands by the woodland spring, when loitering there in summer days they cover it with names, symbols and childish fancies that fade into bark fissures and like the dates carved upon turtles, lose their certainity as years go by.

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(29) BOX ELDER (Acer negudo). 73 Mill Street.

If it were not for its unmistakable double winged seeds or samaras like those of other maples in Spring, the casual observer would not suppose that this rather small tree, rare East of the Alleghanies, which is the only one of all the American maples with composite leaves, that is, with three to five very irregularly shaped lopsided leaflets springing from one leaf stem, was a Maple tree at all.

(30) SILVER POPLAR (Populus alba). 211 South Main street.

Look not in woodland solitudes, but near the habitations of man, for the fluttering glimmer of this aeolian tree, whose form lives less in the drawings of new world botanists than in the poems of Virgil and in the paintings of Claude Lorraine.

The pioneer did not find it in the American forest, but brought it over seas with his box w e, ivy and horse chestnut from Europe. Valued by the old world peasant and disfavored by the American tree critic because of its roots that shoot rapidly into trees, it suffers from a blight in Bucks county, but flourishes at Keelersville and near the Haycock Mountain. In New England it now shades the villages of Cape Cod as the only tree that can there survive the furious sea winds.

But its bark, sometimes yellow, sometimes gray, rough below and smooth above, its great size, abundant catkins and immense vitality, seem insignificant characteristics compared with the silver linging of its leaves, which generations of men have wondered at, when masses of its foliage fluttering upward in the wind flash like sunlit clouds against a stormy sky.

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(31) LIME TREE OR EUROPEAN LINDEN (Tilia europaea). 104 North Main Street.

This noble tree associated with the mythology of Rome, Greece, and Scandinavia, the stately parks of England, and the castles, cloisters and forests of Germany and Sweden, whose tough inner bark called Bast (hence Bast or Bass wood) has been long used in Mat making, was brought to the new world to vie in size, bloom and perfume with its American cousin, Tilia americana.

When the trees stand together as here in Doylestown at 104 and 114 North Main street, it is hard to distinguish them. Amidst the same hum of bees, the same delicious perfume floats in the late Spring through the blossoms of both. In size, in the shape of their lop-sided leaves, in the bark and twigs, they are alike. Their seeds flutter away on similar double winged parachutes, but the bloom of the European Lime is past before the American blossoms come. Therefore, it is so much the harder to hold the flowers side by side, and without a microscope mark the true distinction between the trees, which lies in the number of petals of their blossoms, namely five in the European Linden and ten (that is doubled with "petaloid scales," as the Botanists say) in the American.

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(32) EUROPEAN LINDEN (Tilia europaea). 73 East State street.

See 31.

(33) SILVER MAPLE (Acer dasycarpum). 130 East Court Street.

See 27.

No notable Silver Maple grows in Doylestown, but about two miles to the westward, a very large specimen, 13 feet 6 inches in diameter at 4 feet above the ground shades the premises of Dr. C. B. Bostock at the cross roads on the southeast corner of the New Britain Cemetery. A still larger tree planted by Samuel Hart in 1833, 14 feet 12 inches in similar diameter, stands behind the kitchen of Mr. Henry Arnold Todd at "Glenburne" on the "Pebble Hill" road about a mile southeast of the town.

See 27.

(34) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum), School House Yard.

See 27.

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(35) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum). 41 East State Street.

See 27.

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(36) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum). 15 West Court Street.

See 27.

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(37) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum). 107 East Court Street.

See 27.

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(38) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum). 95 East State Street.

See 27.

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(39) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum). Front of the Fountain House, Main Street.

See 27.

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(40) **SILVER MAPLE** (Acer dasycarpum.) Rear of Methodist Church.

See 27.

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(41)

No Label.

(42) **SUGAR MAPLE** (Acer sacharum). 132 North Main Street.

Planted according to a family tradition by Henry Chapman from a young seedling brought in a conestoga wagon from the Pocono mountain about 1850.

See 23.

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(43)

No Label.

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(44) **AMERICAN BEECH** (Fagus americana). Farm of Mr. Howard M. Earl, Doylestown township.

See 28.

(45) **HEMLOCK** (Tsuga canadensis). 154 North Main Street.

See 46.

(46) **HEMLOCK** (Tsuga canadensis). 154 North Main Street.

The less a lumberman values as he exterminates this exquisite slow growing lofty tree, with its second rate wood and bark (good for tanning leather,) the more might the lover of Creation admire and defend it as one of the rare things of nature, doomed perhaps to disappear like the Wild Pigeon and the Buffalo. But a tree, compared with which all other American Evergreens, slem rigid and motionless—unique, unrivaled, peculiar, immediately recognized among all its wintergreen fellows.

When the frigid botanist fails to describe the sweep of its boughs, the flush of its bark, and the carpet of its needles, when the nurseryman has finished talking of Norway spruces, garden vistas, pergolas, landscape "possibilities" and town streets, then where its brown bark glows like cinnamon and a balsamic breeze follows the ripples, as, by the "Grave of Tammany" or at "Dark Hollow," the Neshaminy cools itself under the aromatic groves of this matchless tree.

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(47) **HEMLOCK** (Tsuga canadensis). 31 East State Street.

See 46.

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(48) **WHITE PINE** (Pinus strobus). 154 North Main Street. Planted by Abraham Chapman about 1812 to 1830.

See 49.

(49) **WHITE PINE** (Pinus strobus). 132 North Main Street.

A poet rather than a botanist should describe this memorable yet forgotten and unappreciated tree, as it stands.

not straight stemmed and close topped in the woods, but where, rivaling even the Cedar of Lebanon and the Deodar of India, it spreads its horizontal arms, sprayed with the finest and most resonant of needles, against the open sky.

For a long time, the soft white wood of the White Pine made easy the work of the pioneer carpenter, who gladly turned to saw and plane it, from the hard worked oak of the "old country," but it is difficult to seed and slow to grow, and the saw mill threatens it with extermination.

A few native pines grow wild on the Tohickon bank below Red Hill, and by the road side west of Center Bridge, while none are planted to take the place of those that still stand around the old homesteads of Buckingham and Solebury.

The Newville trees have fallen. The pines of Pine Run are gone. Lightning and tempest have claimed the trees at 88 North Main street, but this landmark planted by Abraham Chapman about 1812 to 1830 still defies the North wind with its battered arms.

See 5.

(50) WHITE PINE (Pinus stro-

See 49 and 5.

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(51) SUGAR MAPLE (Acer saccharum). 132 North Main street.

See 23 and 42.

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(52) AILANTHUS (Ailanthus glandulosa). 363 North Main street.

See 11.

Two of the trees originally planted here are said to represent a male and female of the species—(Information of Miss Brower, May, 1918).

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(53) WEEPING WILLOW (Salix babylonica). 327 Maple Avenue.

See 87.

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(54) ARBOR VITAE (Thuja occidentalis). 393 East Court Street.

See 79.

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(55) AMERICAN ELM (Ulmus americana). 132 North Main Street.

Planted by Abraham Chapman about 1850. See 18.

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(56) SECKEL PEAR (Pyrus communis, var.). 88 North Main Street.

The garden pear cultivated in Europe since the days of Pliny and Virgil sometimes escaping from cultivation and by seedlings reverting to its old world type, known as the Choke Pear, was unknown to prehistoric America. Nevertheless the Seckel is a variety of the fruit originally unknown in Europe, which sprung up by chance from a European stock about 1760, in the rich mud near the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, about one mile south of Point Breeze Park. There the original tree, photographed in 1880, blew down in 1905. See procedeings Bucks County Historical Society, volume 4, page 256.

Because this ancient Doylestown tree, which has furnished pears to generations of children, was probably planted by Doctor Charles Meredith about 1806, it is reasonable to suppose that it was produced either by direct or nearly related grafting, from the original tree, about 13 years beforo Doctor Hosack introduced the Seckel Pear to Europe, by presenting 18 plants of it to the London Horticultural Society, on June 5, 1819.

(57) AMERICAN LINDEN (Tilia

americana). 114 North Main Street.

Although Moritz Loeb planted this tree about 1850 in memory of his birthplace in Germany (Information of his son Herman Loeb,1914) its ten petalled blossoms show that it is not, like the large tree at 104 North Main street, (31) the European Linden, but the American species. See 17.

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(58) **SCARLET OAK (Quercus coccinea).** 171 Church Street.

If the events constituting the history of Doylestown were classified within—

1. The Prehistoric period, before 1725. 2. The Cross Road period, 1725 to 1812. 3. The Old Town period, 1812 to 1877, or from the building of the old, to the building of the new Court House. 4. The Modern period, thereafter until the present, this majestic tree, probably a forest seedling, and no doubt too old for the third, and too young for the first of these periods, would belong to the second.

The dark bark and the thin lobed deep scalloped and sharp pointed leaves turning brilliant red in Autumn, and the white kerneled acorns of this tree, are distinguished from the conspicuous light gray bark and round scalloped leaves of the White Oak and the less deeply cut leaves, yellow kerneled acorns and characteristic deep yellow under bark of the Black Oak.

(59) **PERSIMMON (Diospyros virginiana).** Opposite 266 South Main Street.

This generally small tree with its bark glinting cinnamon red and its shining lance shaped unnotched leaves and pubescent leaf stems, celebrated for its astonishing yellow plum like fruit of remarkable taste, ripening after frost, is not common in Bucks county

Like the Papaw, Fox and Chicken Grape, Cranberry, Huckleberry, Strawberry, Red Mulberry, Raspberry, Blackbery, Crab Apple and Wild Plum, the Persimmon was one of the fruits of the prehistoric forest enjoyed by the Indian. According to Rafinesque the Southern Indians made an edible paste and a drink of its fruit, the white pioneers an antiseptic, a tonic and a fever remedy from the bitter inner bark, and a beer of persimmons mashed with bran and dried in a bake oven.

The old farmers of Bucks county, when recognizing the tree, occasionally allowed it to stand along fences, or as at the Campbell farm in Buckingham near the house. But this tree, planted by Lewis H. Clemens about 1890, is the largest perfect tree of its kind in Doylestown.

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(60) **WHITE PINE (Pinus strobus).** 485 North Main Street.

See 49.

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(61) **PERSIMMON (Diospyros virginiana).** Grounds of the Bucks County Historical Society.

See 59.

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(62) **WHITE ASH (Fraxinus americana).** In pavement of the High School.

Why should we buy or plant the White Ash on Doylestown hill, when the west wind will plant it for us? Here where the Elm will not flourish, nor the Lombardy Poplar live long, where nursery-bought or imported trees are an experiment, this splendid, quick growing, late-leaved, early-bared tree, with its winged seeds, May flowers and tough elastic wood, valuable for furniture, wagons and agricultural implements, distinguished by its smooth stemmed leaves from the

stemless and hairy leaves of the Black and Red Ash, is always a success, because its roots flourish in our earth, and its boughs enjoy our air, now, as they have done for thousands of years.

Yet the farmer, mistaking it for a weed, grubs, burns, tramples or salts out the young ash tree in "cleaning up the road side" and the man of the town pushes the lawn mower over the proud little stalks of the young giant which Nature gives him as a keepsake from the old forest, to outvie, outgrow and outlive most of the seedlings of all the nurseries in Pennsylvania.

A town ordinance was nearly passed for the destruction of this tree, which, with the Silver Maple and Linden standing near it, was saved by Mrs. Irvin M. James and the Public School Board about 1913.

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(63) LOMBARDY POPLAR (Populus dilatata). 75 Shewell Ave.,
See 19.

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(64) SHELL-BARK HICKORY (Hicoria ovata). Corner Mary and Lafayette Streets.

The shell bark is easily distinguished from the Pig Nut, Bitter Nut and Mocker nut hickories, less by its leaves, flowers and fruit, than by its astonishing bark which warps upon the trunk into very conspicuous scales. Because these bark crusts are very combustible and burn long, they furnished the Foekle or Fishing Torch of the night fisher in pioneer days, and a similar night light for the Indian who scattered the floor of Wyandotte Cave in Indiana with their burnt ends.

Indians and white men prized and stored the delicious nuts of this tree, and the wood best valued for the old kitchen fire furnished to the pioneer the handles, first straight, later curved, which gave spring to the stroke of his forest destroying axe.

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(65) KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE (Gymnocladus dioica). Opposite 318 North Main Street.

At first sight this remarkable tree with its stubby twigless branches apparently without buds an dits loose scaly bark, rare in Pennylvania except when artificially planted, but growing wild in Franklin county, resembles the Ailanthus. But its broad flat (fourteen inches long) wooly seed pods,with six to nine flat seeds, which the followers of Daniel Boone in old Kentucky, boiled for coffee, distinguish this rare native tree. Like the Hercules Club and Honey Locust, it is also peculiar because of its outlandish leaves, which botanists call "double composite," that is, about ten little toothed leaflets, on the ten to fourteen forked leaf stem, are regarded botanically as one leaf.

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(66) BUTTONWOOD (Platanus occidentalis). Hall Farm, Buckingham township.
See 15.

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(67) COPPER BEECH (Fagus sylvatica, var. purperea). 170 West Court Street.

This stately tree with copper coloured instead of green leaves is not an American but a European native. Neither is it a distinct species but only an eccentric variety of the European beech, of which three individual trees thus copper leaved, according to an old natural history published in 1680, appeared near Zurich in Switzerland, and one of which about two hundred years old, the parent of all the American plantings, still, 1904, stood in the Thuringian forest of Germany.

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(68) No label.

(69) APPLE (Malus malus). Spruce Street below Court.

Though the wild Crab Apple, with its delicicusly perfumed pink blossoms and its bitter green and fragrant fruit, is a native American tree, becoming rare in Bucks county. (where a fine example still exisits on the farm of H. G. Broadhurst in Buckingham), the common edible apple with its innumerable varieties, contesting its claim with the tropical orange as the greatest of the world's fruits, and cultivated in Europe since Roman times, was originally produced by cultivation in Persia.

The pioneers of Bucks county soon planted the tree upon their clearings for fruit, cider, apple-butter, preserves, vinegar, and Apple Jack, and developed two varieties, the "Townsend" (near the Cutalossa) and "Smith's Cider" near Newtown, but the Indians before the coming of white men never ate the fruit nor saw the tree.

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(70) CATALPA (Catalpa catalpa). North West Corner Historical Society Grounds.

Out-rivaling the Horse Chestnut, with its sumptuous abundant white and purple spotted flowers, its bean-like pods full of winged seeds hanging late in winter, and its large flannel like leaves secreting nectar, the Catalpa or Candle Tree or Indian Bean or Mahogany Tree was named by Catesby, the botanist, from the Cataba River where he first found it in 1726. Though not a native and transplanted from Southern thickets, it has long delighted the eye and attracted bees in Bucks county, as where like an enormous bouquet in Spring, it overhangs the road on "Iron Hill," or having escaped from cultivation, it scatters its winged seeds and shines its white plumes in the woody dell of the Nehaminy near the Chain bridge.

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(71) SASSAFRAS (Sassafras sassafras). 156 East Court Street, in the back garden.

The comparatively small Sassafras tree, peculiarly abundant in the Eastern United States, whose dark blue shiny berries are rarely seen ripe because the birds eat them, whose bark mixed with ammonia dyes wood a fine orange , and according to Rafinesque, was smoked by the Indians of the Mississippi Valley, whose leaves are powdered in Louisiana to make Gumbo soup; would at sight seem extraordinary because of its eccentric leaves which may appear in three forms, mitten shaped, three lobed and oval on one branch. But boys, judging by the taste, remember it for the still more remarkable fact, generally overlooked in the descriptions of botanists, namely, that with its spicy bark, roots, leaves and flowers, it out-rivals Sweet Birch and Benzoin (Baby Wood) as the most aromatic tree in Nerth America.

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(72) DWARF CATALPA (Catalpa benegeii). 218 Green Street.

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(73) SWEET CHERRY (Prunus avium). 212 Court Street.

Rival of the Strawberry, beloved of boys and birds, associated with the flavor of Cherry Bounce, the delicious fruit of this European tree is best known in the forms of the "Pie," "Oxheart" and "Black" Cherry.

The Pennsylvanian must thank the horticulture of his European ancestor for this fair fruit of early summer brought to Europe by Lucullus the

Roman epicure from Cerasus of Pontus in Asia Minor. Cultivated for centuries in France, England and Germany, the Cherry tree, if in Pennsylvania degenerating in fruit, has not failed in the magnificence of its white bloom, which gladdening the road-side when the Meadow Lark sings his spring song, only yields to those blossoms which the Japanese wonder at on April 7th.

(74) **WILD CHERRY** (**Prunus serotina**). Lafayette Street.

Keep an underfed cat in May and cut down wild cherry trees if you would drive away and destroy the Blue Birds, Robins, Cedar Birds, Meadow Larks, King Birds, Hairy Woodpeckers, Flickers, Warblers and Thrushes, or abolish their song. For when, along the garden fences of Doylestown, these graceful sturdy black limbed little trees, (distinguished from the Choke Cherry by the much sharper serrations of their leaves) spring up—no human hands have planted them, but these birds have done the work.

Though as improvers of street fronts or vendors of town lots, with arms full of nursery bought Maple trees, we cut down this bird's tree; though the farmer, classing the slender seedling with poison Ivy, Cowbane or bramble, lays waste with fire and salt the songsters' paradise by the roadside, it is hard work to exterminate these favorites of nature, whose perfume in Spring challenges the scent of the cherry blossoms of Japan, whose leaves come out a second time in late Summer after armies of Caterpillars have devoured them, whose tough slender branches, neither the weight of winter sleet nor the furious storms of summer, can break. For from far beyond the destroyers' reach, the birds feasting on the fruit have borne the cherry stones to plant the trees again.

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(75). **GINGKO** (**Torreya salisburia**). Maple Avenue and Spruce Street.

Though it is strange that the Gingko tree does not bear fruit until about forty years old, there is nothing otherwise very remarkable about the history of this native of Northern China, which was introduced into England in 1754 and came thence to the United SCtates.

Nothing seems extraordinary about its moderate size or its wood, or flowers, or even its fruit, which is a plum like drupe with a large stone and a kernel edible when roasted. But its outlandish leaves, wedge shaped, in the style of maiden hair fern, with a deep scallop on the broad side and set wrong end foremost on the stem, have no counter-part among all the leaves of all the trees of America or Europe.

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(76) **WHITE BIRCH** (**Betula alba**). Corner Spruce Street and Maple Avenue.

This small, short-lived tree with its glittering silver bark and delicate poplar like leaves turning yellow and red in Autumn, closely resembles the American White Birch but can be distinguished from the latter by the leaves, which lack the very long slender points of those of the American tree.

The White Birch of Europe has been renowned since Roman times, when Numa Pompilius was said to have written his books upon its bark, and when the Fasces or official staves of the Roman Lictors were made of its

wood. Bread of its bark was made in Russia and Finland. Schoolmasters of old "birched" bad boys with its switches, and in honor of this tree there is an old Scottish tune called the Birks (birches) of Abergeldy, to which Burns at another place wrote the words "The Birks of Aberfeldy" in 1787.

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(77) ENGLISH WALNUT (Juglans regia). 46 Bridge Street. See 78.

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(78) ENGLISH WALNUT (Juglans regia). 132 West Ashland Street.

Compared with the celebrated thin shelled fruit of this Persian tree, rivaling the Northern Chestnut or the Oriental Almond, and outvieing the Hazel Nut, Walnut and Butter Nut of America, even its lofty beautiful form, creamy bark and graceful foliage seem insignificant. But its aromatic and medicinal leaves, which no insect will eat, have long been used in the old world to drive away moths, or when boiled with honey have served as a gargle. Its nut oil has helped painters to moisten their pigments since 1652 when the tree found its way to England. Its roots and husks have tanned wood and its sap has passed for sugar, since, from earliest times in Southern Europe, the Romans dedicated it to Diana and scattered its delicate walnuts at weddings.

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(79) ARBOR VITAE (Thuja occidentalis). 318 North Main Street.

Cedar like in its pointed form, reddish brown bark and dense evergreen foliage, the Arbor Vitae bears flattened overlapped scales rather than leaves, which are not harsh and prickly to the touch like those of the Cedar and Juniper, but smooth and tender. Neither are its cones knotted and spurred, like those of the Cedar, but natural and regular. Nor does it bear green berries like the Juniper.

As a small American tree rarely found wild in Pennsylvania, which according to Rafanesque can be 36 feet high and 14 inches in diameter when 150 years old, it was soon celebrated by its discoverers, and taken back to Europe by botanists about 200 years ago. There as a favorite hedge tree, clipped like Box, it became much varied by cultivation.

The American pioneers mixed its aromatic leaves with bears' grease for rheumatism. But long before they used its durable trunks for bean poles and fence posts, the Indians, finding it to be one of the few woods that would suit their master art, twirled its fragrant twigs between their hands to make fire.

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(80) TULIP TREE (Liriodendron tulipifera). Corner Maple Avenue and State Street.

No statlier tree ever grew on the banks of Cook's Run or upon Doylestown hill, in the days of the great forest, than the Tulip Poplar. With its lofty, straight limbed trunk and three lobed leaves, it still springs up as a wild seedling, often mistaken for a weed along the fences and road sides, where its seeds, loosened from the winter cones, fly on the wind or are carried by birds.

Alone of its kind, save for a closely related tree found in Western China in 1875, and common to the whole Eastern United States, it did not grow West of the Mississippi. The Indians made dug out canoes of its valuable wood by cutting out with stone axes, the ashes of fires circumscribed with wet clay upon its trunk. The old set

tlers gathered its bark in winter for low fevers, dysentery, dyspepsia and rheumatism. The Cherokees powdered its leaves into poultices for headache and the Osages used its roots and green cones for fevers. The Bees know that the Tulips are fragrant and full of honey, but Hough, Illick, Keeler, and Sargent grind the tree through the Botanical word mill without saying so.

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(81) PURPLE MAGNOLIA (Magnolia purpurea). 388 Maple Avenue.

Although many beautiful specimens of the heavy flowered Magnolia, named after Pierre Magnol, a French botanist who died in 1715, were native to the American forest, their scented flowers were generally white or greenish yellow. This beautiful shrub introduced into Europe from Japan in 1790 blooms in purple.

Magnolias grew on North Main street near the Cross Keys, and near New Britain, where R. W. Hamilton once lived, and he, who planted them, probably planted this tree about 1885.

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(82) STAG HORN SUMAC (Rhus glabra)). South West Corner Historical Society Grounds.

The Stag Horn Sumac when fully grown is large enough to be called a tree, compared to which the other Sumacs—the smooth, the Dwarf and the Poison—seem like bushes.

Common all over Bucks county, it appears in its glory on the hilly slopes of Tohickon Creek, Cabin Run, or in the glens of Tinicum, and the glades of Nockamixon Swamp. Itfs downy smaller branches spread like the horns of a deer. Its bark, roots and leaves tan leather. Its flowers are full of honey, and all winter its close tufted pompons of maroon red persist to feed the birds in early Spring.

Whoever fears to confuse this tree when large or small with the celebrated and dangerous Poison Sumac, may distinguish it before the red fruit is ripe by its long graceful leaves, because these leaves are notched, and because the Poison Sumac bears leaves which are not notched, but smooth edged. Besides this the fruit of Poison Sumac appears in the form, not of Red velvet tufts, but of little gray berries like those of Poison Ivy.

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(83) SWEET BIRCH (Betula lenta). South West Corner—Grounds of Historcial Society.

What boy who has hunted Slippery Elm or "Babywood," dug up the aromatic roots of the Sassafras and Calamus, or made whistles of green willow twigs sweet to the taste, has not nibbled the fragrant twigs of the Sweet Birch, when this small tree, resembling the black cherry, with its flexible branches, slow growing wood, highly valued by cabinet makers, and prized next to hickory for fuel, puts forth its golden catkins in the Spring?

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(84) WHITE MULBERRY (Morus alba). On lane beyond 44 East Court street.

This is a small Asiatic tree with edible, Raspberry like, frequently white berries, whose variously formed (lobed and not lobed, mitten shaped or ovate) leaves are used in China to feed Silk worms. Introduced into England from Asia in 1596 as a rival of the Morus nigra or Black Mulberry of Europe, there previously used in France and Spain for the same purpose, it was brought to the United States during the late Colonial period and the "Silk Craze" of 1837 to 1839, when John H Anderson had a planta-

tion of these trees of the variety known as Morus multicaulis on the East end of Doylestown hill.

Because there is a native American Mulberry with a red or "black" fruit (Morus rubra) and because the European Mulberry with a black fruit has been introduced into the United States and because the fruit of this celebrated tree may be sometimes reddish black, rather than white as its name implies—this tree might be easily confused with its relatives but for its smoother leaves.

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(85) MOUNTAIN ASH (Pyrus aucuparia). Corner Clinton and Decatur Streets.

This hardy little hillside tree with its gorgeous scarlet Autumn berries is the Rowan tree of British fable. Esteemed by Druids long ago it is found in the neighborhood of "stone circles" and still planted in Wesh grave yards. Welsh peasants made its wood into crosses for the adornment of clothing and its twigs were tied with red tape to the horns of grazing cows, or carried as switches by Scottish shepherd girls to drive off evil spirits. Rowan berries were made into a preserve and used with brandy in Russia as a medicinal tincture and the tough compact wood once served the British archers for their bows.

The hardy tree frequently clinging to rocky hill sides is distinguished from the Ameircan Mountain Ash (Sorbus americana) by its much larger and brighter berries and less sharply toothed and more pointed leaflets.

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(86) EUROPEAN LARCH (Larix europaea). 334 Maple Avenue.

Thin of foliage, light green in late Spring, dingy in Summer, and yellowish in Autumn, with down-growing needles, bristling close upon its long flexible twigs, the sturdy and durable European Larch, native to the coldest North, resembles the smaller Tamarack or Hackmatack of the United States, but for its larger and more abundant cones, (1 inch long, 1 inch broad) and denser needles. Both trees contrary to fact appear to be evergreens, but the astounding feature about both is that unlike any other cone bearing evergreens in America, they lose their needles in winter.

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(87) WEEPING WILLOW (Salix babylonica). Green Street, near Corner of Ashland.

Once seen, whether by light of the sun or of the moon, this ghostly tree with its incomparable down streaming festoons of slender leafage can never be forgotten. The ancient forests of America never saw it, but thoughts of romance have followed it from Asia, its original home, to Europe and thence to the New World. Its figure has been carved upon tombs and painted in Cobalt on Canton China to illustrate the Chinese story of the runaway lovers. It has been planted in cemeteries and parks, by men, who in spite of its worthless wood, valued it for its matchless beauty.

The fancies of Alexander Pope at Twickenham and the memories of Napoleon at St. Helena have lived in its long shadows, and it has heard the song of the divine musicians when, according to Psalms 1-37, they hung their harps upon it by the waters of Babylon.

One of the most beautiful of these trees in Doylestown stood on State street near the corner of Donaldson street and was cut down not many years ago. This rtee on Green street was planted by Mr. Metlar in 1870.

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